

CLAIMS:

WE claim:

1. A method for managing member enrollment in a collaborative computing community, the method comprising:
 - identifying one or more end user persons for enrollment in the collaborative computing community;
 - implementing an enrollment model to determine whether to enroll the one or more identified end user persons as members in the community; and
 - updating community membership to enroll the one or more end user persons based on the implemented enrollment model.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein implementing an enrollment model includes designating one or more community members as administrators with the authority to grant enrollment to the one or more end user persons.
3. The method of Claim 2, further including providing the one or more community members with the ability to remove a community member from the community.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein implementing an enrollment model to determine whether to enroll the one or more identified end user persons as members in the community includes:
 - identifying one or more criteria for defining a role in the collaborative computing community;

obtaining role profiles for each of the end user persons; and
determining if one or more role profiles match the one or more criteria.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the one or more criteria for defining a role in the collaborative computing community includes payment of a predetermined fee.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein implementing an enrollment model includes providing one or more of the end user persons with the ability to grant enrollment to themselves.

7. The method of Claim 6 further including providing the one or more end user persons with the ability to remove themselves from the community.

8. The method of Claim 2, wherein implementing an enrollment model includes designating one or more community members as a sponsor member having privileges, the sponsor member granted a further privilege of sponsoring one or more of the end user persons for community membership as a sponsored member, wherein the sponsored member is granted enrollment in the community with privileges equal or less than the privileges of the sponsor member.

9. The method of Claim 9, wherein the sponsored member is enrolled as a community member if voted into the community.

10. The method of Claim 8, wherein the sponsored member is enrolled as a community member after the passage of a predetermined amount of time.
11. A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program which when executed defines a method for managing member enrollment in a collaborative computing community, the computer program performing a method comprising:
- identifying one or more end user persons for enrollment in the collaborative computing community;
 - implementing an enrollment model to determine whether to enroll the one or more identified end user persons as members in the community; and
 - updating community membership to enroll the one or more end user persons based on the implemented enrollment model.
12. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 11, wherein implementing an enrollment model includes designating one or more community members as administrators with the authority to grant enrollment to the one or more end user persons.
13. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 12, wherein the method performed by the stored computer program when executed further includes providing the one or more community members with the ability to remove a community member from the community.

14. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 11, wherein implementing an enrollment model to determine whether to enroll the one or more identified end user persons as members in the community includes:

identifying one or more criteria for defining a role in the collaborative computing community;

obtaining role profiles for each of the end user persons; and

determining if one or more role profiles match the one or more criteria.

15. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 14, wherein the one or more criteria for defining a role in the collaborative computing community includes payment of a predetermined fee.

16. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 11, wherein implementing an enrollment model includes providing one or more of the end user persons with the ability to grant enrollment to themselves.

17. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 16, wherein the method performed by the stored computer program when executed further includes providing the one or more end user persons with the ability to remove themselves from the community.

18. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 12, wherein implementing an enrollment model includes designating one or more community members as a sponsor

member having privileges, the sponsor member granted a further privilege of sponsoring one or more of the end user persons for community membership as a sponsored member, wherein the sponsored member is granted enrollment in the community with privileges equal or less than the privileges of the sponsor member.

19. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 18, wherein the sponsored member is enrolled as a community member if voted into the community.

20. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 18, wherein the sponsored member is enrolled as a community member after the passage of a predetermined amount of time.

21. A system for managing member enrollment in a networked collaborative computing community, the system comprising:

- a workstation; and

- a collaborative computing server in data communication with the workstation via the network, the collaborative computing server being operative to:

- identify one or more end user persons for enrollment in the collaborative computing community;

- implement an enrollment model to determine whether to enroll the one or more identified end user persons as members in the community; and

- update community membership to enroll the one or more end user persons based on the implemented enrollment model.

22. The system of Claim 21, wherein implementing an enrollment model includes designating one or more community members as administrators with the authority to grant enrollment to the one or more end user persons.

23. The system of Claim 22, wherein the collaborative computing server is further operative to provide the one or more community members with the ability to remove a community member from the community.

24. The system of Claim 21, wherein implementing an enrollment model to determine whether to enroll the one or more identified end user persons as members in the community includes:

- identifying one or more criteria for defining a role in the collaborative computing community;

- obtaining role profiles for each of the end user persons; and

- determining if one or more role profiles match the one or more criteria

25. The system of Claim 24, wherein the one or more criteria for defining a role in the collaborative computing community includes payment of a predetermined fee.

26. The system of Claim 21, wherein implementing an enrollment model includes providing one or more of the end user persons with the ability to grant enrollment to themselves.

27. The system of Claim 26 wherein the collaborative computing server is further operative to provide the one or more end user persons with the ability to remove themselves from the community.

28. The system of Claim 22, wherein implementing an enrollment model includes designating one or more community members as a sponsor member having privileges, the sponsor member granted a further privilege of sponsoring one or more of the end user persons for community membership as a sponsored member, wherein the sponsored member is granted enrollment in the community with privileges equal or less than the privileges of the sponsor member.

29. The system of Claim 28, wherein the sponsored member is enrolled as a community member if voted into the community.

30. The system of Claim 28, wherein the sponsored member is enrolled as a community member after the passage of a predetermined amount of time.